



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Effective October 1, 2011, Embassies Copenhagen and Oslo will no longer process immigrant visa (IV) or diversity visa (DV) applications. These Embassies will neither schedule nor conduct IV or DV interviews after October 1. As of October 1, 2011, all immigrant and diversity visa interviews and adjudications for residents of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden will take place at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden.

Embassies Copenhagen and Oslo will continue to process all cases currently underway until December 31, 2011. After December 31, all pending immigrant and diversity visa cases will be transferred to Embassy Stockholm.

Embassies Copenhagen and Oslo will continue to offer some immigration-related services. For more complete information, please visit the appropriate Embassy website.

Please note this change only affects immigrant visa processing. Embassies Oslo and Copenhagen will continue to process nonimmigrant visas for business, tourism, education, and other purposes.

Embassies Copenhagen and Oslo will continue to provide the full range of services to American citizens, including the issuance of U.S. passports, issuance of reports of birth abroad for children born in Denmark and Norway to American citizen parents, provision of emergency services to American citizens, performance of notarial services, and assistance in voting by absentee ballot in U.S. elections.

Below are the answers to frequently asked questions regarding this change.

Q: How many times will I have to travel to Stockholm to complete my immigrant or diversity visa processing?

A: Most cases will only require one trip to Embassy Stockholm. This trip will be for the visa interview.

Q: I know I need to visit an approved Panel Physician as part of my immigrant or diversity visa application. Must I visit the physician in Sweden?

A: Residents of Denmark and Norway may visit the panel physicians located in their home countries. The U.S. Embassy in Stockholm will accept results from these visits. Residents of Sweden will continue to visit the physicians in Sweden.

Q: I have already interviewed for my immigrant or diversity visa at Embassy Oslo or Embassy Copenhagen, but my visa was not issued because I need to submit additional documents or my case was in administrative processing. What happens to my case now?

A: Embassies Copenhagen and Oslo will continue processing cases already interviewed at the respective post until December 31, 2011. Cases not completed by December 31, 2011 will be transferred to Embassy Stockholm for completion. If you need to submit additional documents, we recommend you do so as soon as possible as to avoid having your case transferred to Stockholm. If your case is pending administrative processing, we will make every effort to have the processing completed before December 31.

Q: How do I schedule my appointment for Embassy Stockholm if I live in Denmark or Norway?

A: As part of the standard immigrant visa process, the National Visa Center will coordinate with you to schedule your interview appointment at the appropriate post (now Stockholm) upon receiving your immigrant visa application and supporting paperwork. Similarly for diversity visa applicants, your case interview will be scheduled by the Kentucky Consular Center as part of the standard diversity visa process. If you wish to interview for your immigrant or diversity visa at another *immigrant visa processing post* besides Stockholm, you may make the request to the National Visa Center or the Kentucky Consular Center, respectively, prior to the time your appointment is scheduled in Stockholm..

Q: How will I get my passport and visa back from Embassy Stockholm after my visa is issued?

A: Passports and documents will be returned to applicants via registered mail. Applicants residing in Sweden need to bring 127 SEK in postage with them on the day of their interview. Applicants residing in Norway or Denmark need to bring 295 SEK in postage with them on the day of their interview. Please note that stamps cannot be purchased at the Embassy.

Q: What do I do if my immigrant or diversity visa interview is scheduled at Embassy Copenhagen or Oslo for a date before October 1, 2011?

A: Interviews scheduled in Oslo or Copenhagen for August or September are not affected. Applicants should attend those appointments as previously directed.

Q: I'd like to apply for a nonimmigrant visa, file an application for returning resident status, obtain a travel letter because I lost my green card, apply for parole into the United States, apply as a follow-to-join refugees or asylee, or renounce my U.S. lawful permanent residence status. Must I travel to Stockholm for these services?

A: No, the services listed in this question will continue to be carried out by the Embassies in Oslo or Copenhagen.

Q: Whom should I contact if I have questions about how this change affects my case?

A: Applicants who have already interviewed for their immigrant or diversity visa should contact the post at which they interviewed until December 31, 2011, or the Visa Office's Public Inquiries' Division at 202-663-1225. After December 31, all questions should be directed to Embassy Stockholm at STKIVInfo@state.gov.

Applicants whose appointment has not yet been scheduled or who are requesting information about applying for an immigrant visa should contact the National Visa Center by email at nvcinquiry@state.gov and by phone at 603-334-0700.

Applicant whose cases are to be transferred to Stockholm will be notified by Embassy Copenhagen or Embassy Oslo with more instructions.

After October 1, all inquiries regarding new cases should be directed to Embassy Stockholm at STKIVInfo@state.gov.

Q: How do I contact the National Visa Center (NVC)?

A: The National Visa Center can be reached by email at nvcinquiry@state.gov and by phone at 603-334-0700.

Q: How do I contact the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC)?

A: The Kentucky Consular Center can be reached by email at kccd@state.gov and by phone at 606-526-7500.

Q: Why is the Department of State making this change to Embassy services?

A: Given the relatively low demand for immigrant visa services in Oslo and Copenhagen, we are consolidating services in Stockholm to make more efficient use of our resources. Because of resource limitations we were forced to make cuts in our services and identified the immigrant visas in northern Europe as an area where our changes would impact the fewest number of applicants.



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Consular Section, Immigrant Visa Unit

Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 31

115 89 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Tel: +46 (0) 8 783 53 70 Monday and Wednesday 1-2PM

<http://stockholm.usembassy.gov/>

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL IMMIGRANT VISA
APPLICANTS RESIDING IN DENMARK, NORWAY, OR SWEDEN**

**Please note that the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm is conducting
immigrant visa interviews for applicants legally residing in Denmark,
Norway and Sweden.**

For **Diversity Visa (DV)** applicants, you should have already received information regarding what original documents you need to bring with you on the day of your interview. **For DV applicants only: prior to your appointment date, please mail a copy of the biodata page of your passport as well as a copy of your high school transcript/diploma or proof of work experience to the Immigrant Visa Unit at the address at the top of this page.**

All members of your family immigrating with you must appear on the appointment date. **If you cannot keep the appointment, please notify this office immediately via e-mail: stkivinfo@state.gov** Please make sure to enter your case number in the subject line.

Please be aware that it may take up to 6 months to obtain a different appointment. Also keep in mind that we can only give approximately 4 weeks advance notice when re-scheduling an appointment.

Section 203(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act requires that an intending immigrant pursue his or her visa application within one year from the date he or she is informed that it is possible to do so. This is our notice to you that it is now possible for you to pursue your application for a visa. If you fail to do so within one year from the date of the enclosed appointment letter, your application and any visa petition approved for you will be cancelled.

DO NOT BRING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE EMBASSY:

- Electronic devices (such as: cell phones, laptop computers, cameras, iPods, MP3 players, etc.)
- Weapons or tools
- Backpacks, suitcases or other large bags
- Food or beverages of any kind (except for milk for babies).

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS MAY ACCOMPANY YOU TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

- An interpreter: An applicant may bring one certified interpreter if the applicant does not speak English well enough to participate unassisted in the visa interview.
- Special Needs Assistance: An applicant may bring one person to assist them if he/she is disabled. A minor child **must** bring his/her **legal guardian**.
- Attorneys: An applicant may be accompanied by his/her attorney.

Due to the limited size of our waiting room other persons (not mentioned above or in the Appointment Letter), such as drivers, friends, extra relatives, and others, will **not** be admitted to the Consular Section.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT, DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Present your Appointment Letter to the security guards in order to gain access to the Immigrant Visa Unit in the Consular Section. Please make sure to stand in the line for U.S. citizens/Immigrant Visa applicants. Do not stand in the line for Non-Immigrant Visa applicants.

Please note: Every applicant must pass through a metal detector and all bags and other carried personal items will be passed through an x-ray machine. You may be asked to remove items like belts with metal belt buckles before passing through the metal detector. In order to reduce your wait time at the security checkpoint, we recommend that you do not bring any unnecessary personal items to the Embassy.

2. Once you are in the consular waiting room, please proceed to **window G**.
3. Once you have checked in at **window G**, please take a seat and wait for your name to be called. Since many applicants are scheduled on the same day, you might experience

a lengthy wait time. Please take this in to account when parking your car and packing suitable activities for children.

REMINDERS – REMEMBER TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- Immigrant visa applicants: see the National Visa Center's guidance on document requirements for the interview. DV applicants: see the Kentucky Consular Center's guidance on document requirements for the interview.
- Please remember to bring any **original** documents that you have not yet submitted to the National Visa Center.
- For **residents of Denmark and Norway**, please bring Swedish stamps in the amount of 295 SEK. For **residents of Sweden**, please bring Swedish stamps in the amount of 127 SEK. Please note that you will **not/not** be able to buy stamps at the Embassy.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

All intending immigrants, regardless of age, are required to undergo a medical examination performed by one of the Embassy-appointed panel physicians. Applicants residing in Denmark and Norway will still have the medical examination done in their home countries. Applicants residing in Sweden must have the medical examination done in Sweden. Please see the enclosed list of Embassy approved panel physicians in each country.

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to schedule an appointment with one of the panel physicians in advance of your appointment at the Embassy.

The medical report will be forwarded directly to the Embassy.

The x-rays are handed directly to you. You do not need to bring the x-rays to the Embassy, unless you suffer from Tuberculosis (TB). However, you **must** bring the x-rays with you when you travel to the U.S. for the first time.

The medical report must be less than one year old when you enter the United States as an immigrant.

MOST IMPORTANT

No assurance can be given in advance that a visa will be issued. A Consular Officer can make a decision only after your formal application and all accompanying documents are reviewed, and you have been personally interviewed by the officer.

If the officer finds you eligible for an immigrant visa, our office will make every effort to mail out the visa within two weeks. Since the visa will be sent to you by registered mail, you must bring Swedish stamps in the amount of 295 SEK (**for residents of Denmark and Norway**) or 127 SEK (**residents of Sweden**). Failure to bring the right amount of postage will delay your visa issuance.

Neither the consulate nor the U.S. Government can accept any liability for passports or visas lost in the mail.

Should the visa **not** be approved due to a lack of required documents, immigrant visa applicants have one year to provide the requested paperwork. Diversity Visa applicants must provide the requested paperwork before the end of the fiscal year (September 30th). Failure to submit the requested documents within the timeframe specified will result in the termination of your case. You should mail the required documents (along with a copy of the "Refusal Letter" handed to you at the time of your interview) to the Immigrant Visa Unit. Once we have reviewed the newly-submitted documents and your case, we will contact you with further information.

You are advised **not** to make any travel arrangements for departure from your country, **not** to sell your property, and **not** to abandon your employment until you have received your visa. An immigrant visa is usually valid for a maximum of six months from the date of issuance. You must travel and apply for admission to the United States within that 6-month period. Should police certificates and medical reports expire prior to the above-mentioned 6-month period, the visa validity will be limited accordingly.